

Abridged and Illustrated for Easy Understanding

Annual Report on the Environment in Japan 2004

Diffusing the Environmental Techniques and the Environmental Spirit



Ministry of the Environment

To Our Readers

This booklet was compiled based on the *Quality of the Environment in Japan 2004* (White Paper), an annual report on the environment by the Government, published on May 28, 2004. The content of this booklet was edited to reach out to a wider readership with a more readable publication. This booklet offers an overview on the subject of “Diffusing the Environmental Techniques and the Environmental Spirit” (in Part One) as well as a digest of environmental conservation policies and measures implemented by the Government in FY 2003 (in Part Two).

The *Quality of the Environment in Japan 2004* was printed by Gyosei Corporation. The *Annual Report on the Environment for Children*, which is edited to make it easier for primary and middle school students to understand, was published on September 30.

Back issues of *Quality of the Environment in Japan* and *Abridged and Illustrated for Easy Understanding Annual Report on the Environment in Japan* are available on the Ministry of the Environment website (<http://www.env.go.jp/en/w-paper/index.html>).

Besides the topics covered in this booklet, the *Quality of the Environment in Japan 2004* also introduces the following websites for your reference (in Japanese only):

- *Wa-no-kurashi* (<http://www.wanokurashi.ne.jp>)
- Biotope Information (<http://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/eap61/>)
- Vision for a Virtuous Circle for Environment and Economy in Japan
(<http://www.env.go.jp/policy/report/h16-01/index.html>)
- An example of an ecotourism website
 - Exciting Nature School WADA (<http://home.e03.itscom.net/np0-ns/>)
- Examples of environmental education websites
 - Zaidanhojin KEEP Kyokai (<http://www.keep.or.jp/indexe.html>) (English Website)
 - Okinawa Citizen’s Recycle Movement
(<http://www.ryucom.ne.jp/users/rec/kuru-e/welcome-e.htm>) (English Website)
 - Suita Environmental University for Senior Citizens
(<http://www.city.suita.osaka.jp/kobo/chikyu/page/004086.shtml>)

The drawing on the cover page is the work of Kozue Okamoto, a second-year student at the Kagawa Prefectural Takamatsu Technical Art High School. Ms. Okamoto won the Minister of the Environment Award (General Category) at the “Year 2004 White Paper on the Environment Cover Page Illustration Contest,” which was sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment and the Japan Environment Association.

Ms. Okamoto commented, “I used drawings of natural scenery and environment-friendly human technologies for the background to represent the coexistence of man and nature. Because the Earth, the man, the bird, the fish, and the dog in the middle of the picture will have to continue to coexist on this Earth, I used a leaf bud to represent the actions that must be taken to care for nature.”

The drawing on the back cover is the work of Shirou Urano, a fifth-grade student at the Fukuno Town Municipal Primary School in Toyama Prefecture. Mr. Urano won the Japan Environment Association Chairman Award (Elementary and Junior High School Student Category) at the “Year 2004 White Paper on the Environment Cover Page Illustration Contest.”

Mr. Urano commented, “I drew a world in which animals, plants, and humans all got along and were nice to the Earth’s environment.”

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Part One

Overview: Diffusing the Environmental Techniques and the Environmental Spirit